

THE LAKE MUIR AND DENBARKER
COMMUNITY FERAL PIG ERADICATION GROUP;
A COOPERATIVE PROJECT ON FERAL PIG CONTROL
ON THE SOUTH COAST OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA



BI-ANNUAL REPORT 2007 and 2008

**COOPERATIVE PROJECT ON
FERAL PIG CONTROL
IN THE
LAKE MUIR AND DENBARKER AREAS
OF THE SOUTH COAST OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

BI-ANNUAL REPORT

2007 and 2008

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PROJECT DETAILS

Background

The Community Feral Pig Eradication Group (CFPEG) started as a pilot project in early 2001 after local landholders raised concerns regarding the increasing spread of feral pigs and the damage they were causing. Increased reports of sightings prompted the establishment of a cooperative venture between landholders, businesses and government departments who assisted the development of a large scale trapping program through funding and operational support. The success of the trapping efforts within the first 5 months proved the worth of the project and led to the formation of the not-for-profit **Lake Muir Denbarker Community Feral Pig Eradication Group** (the group).

Feral pigs are declared animals under the *Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act 1976*. It is an offence to liberate or attempt to liberate declared animals or to fail to prevent them being at large. Over the past 8 years the group has significantly halted the advance of pig populations, reduced densities and continues to aim for total eradication within the Lake Muir / Denbarker area. The success of the group is ensured by the continued support from a wide range of project partners and the commitment of group members and trappers.

This report provides a summary of the activities that were conducted during 2007 and 2008.

Five previous reports are available on the internet¹ and provide statistics and project results since 2002.



¹Copies of the 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005-2006 and 2007-2008 annual/biannual reports are available from the Lake Muir Denbarker Community Feral Pig Eradication Group website (<http://www.feralpig.southcoastwa.org.au/reports.html>).

1. Project aim

The primary aim of the project is:

To facilitate the involvement of all landholders in the Lake Muir and Denbarker areas in contributing to the initial reduction of the feral pig population and the subsequent maintenance of low pig densities.

Enquiries over the past four years from other regions facing feral pig impact have highlighted the need for the group to advise and assist outside of the group's project area (Lake Muir / Denbarker).

2. Project objectives

The group follows ten core objectives.

Objective 1.

To minimise the effects feral pigs have on:

- The likelihood of spreading exotic diseases.
- The quality of the natural environment.
- The quality of water in catchment areas.
- Private property adjoining forest areas.

Objective 2.

To share the cost and effort for feral pig control.

Objective 3.

To enable an immediate response to complaints from landholders who have pigs emanating from neighbouring land.

Objective 4.

Reduce illegal pig hunting and release of pigs into forest areas.

Objective 5.

Encourage a flexible trapping program that is not restricted to business hours or weekdays.

Objective 6.

Improve the community image of government agencies, plantation owners and farmers as responsible managers of feral animals on their lands.

Objective 7.

Augment current Department of Environment and Conservation trapping and poisoning programs.

Objective 8.

Collect relevant statistics on the distribution and number of feral pigs.

Objective 9.

Monitor the effectiveness of hunting with dogs as a means of feral pig control.

Objective 10.

(New) To advise and assist the establishment of similar working groups in other areas of the state.



3. Project management

The group continues to meet on a regular basis in Rocky Gully to guide the on-ground operations. The group has been chaired by Mark Muir since 2003 and Tony Fox took on the new role of Deputy Chairperson in July 2007. Secretarial assistance has been provided by Jo Wills since July 2006. Administrative assistance is provided by the Shire of Plantagenet. All project funds are held in trust at the Shire of Plantagenet and the staff at the Shire process all financial transactions on behalf of the group. The group is very grateful for the Shire's ongoing support.

The group manages all operational aspects of the project objectives as listed above. The names of the group's members are provided in Appendix 1.

Allotted members of the group maintain regular contact with trappers to enable the sharing of siting information, trap

distribution, trapping statistics and to manage matters in relation to trappers fulfilling the objectives of their job. Details in relation to contracts and public liability insurance for the trappers are managed by the Shire of Plantagenet on behalf of the group.

The group actively seeks members with a broad range of positions in the community to assist the achievement of the project's objectives. The group has an open and inclusive membership and participation policy and welcomes general attendance to meetings.

The group is grateful for the financial and in-kind contributions from a range of organisations, groups and individuals who supported the group's operations in 2007 and 2008. A list of financial contributors to the project during 2007 and 2008 are listed in Appendix 2.



4. Project results for 2007 and 2008

Feral pig control

Trappers, Kevin Machen, Bob Radomiljac and Peter Cochrane conducted surveillance, trapping and monitoring activities during the 2007 and 2008 trapping periods within the Lake Muir / Denbarker area and surrounding areas. Kevin and Peter also provided mentoring to other community groups and landholders. Peter has been a trapper for the group since the project began operations in 2001. Kevin commenced as a trapper in 2003. Bob began as a trainee trapper in February 2008 and was accredited by the group in September 2008. Tom Devries commenced as a trainee trapper in December 2008.

The Albany Branch of the Sporting Shooters Association (SSA) have been invaluable to the group through their rapid response to requests for assistance with sightings when trappers have been unavailable and for providing feedback about pig activity in the areas they operate in. The group would like to acknowledge Mark Foster, the current president of the branch, for his support in arranging surveillance teams.

A document released by the Department of Food and Agriculture Western Australia (DAFWA) provides basic details of methods and equipment used for feral pig control by trapping and can be accessed at: http://www.agric.wa.gov.au/content/pw/vp/fer/fn036_2003.pdf

2007 Results

The 2007 trapping season commenced in January and concentrated on the Lake Muir area. Traps were set at various sites within Lake Muir, Rocky Gully, Denbarker and Denmark areas during the year (Appendix 3). A total of 81 pigs (+50 unborn) were trapped during the 2007 trapping season with the majority of pigs caught in the Lake Muir / Tone Bridge area (Appendix 5). Approximately half of these pigs were captured within the first three months of the year with a lot of large boars being caught over the summer. There was a total of 29 weeks trapping time in 2007 with 2.8 pigs caught per trapper week* (Appendix 5).

* The work effort required to catch pigs in the project area was assessed by calculating the number of pigs trapped per week of trapper time (total number of pigs trapped / total weeks of trapper time).

The weights of pigs trapped in 2007 ranged from 5 kg to 168 kg for boars with an average weight of 52.7 kg and from 5 kg to 70 kg for sows with an average weight of 36.7 kg. The average weight of boars and sows has remained relatively stable throughout the project period (Appendix 6).

The trapping season ended mid July.

2008 Results

Trapping commenced in February 2008 with a total trapping time of 31 weeks (Appendix 5). Traps were again set within the Lake Muir, Rocky Gully, Denbarker and Denmark areas (Appendix 4) and a total of 149 pigs were caught (+115 unborn) with

the majority of pigs caught in the Lake Muir / Tone River area (Appendix 5). The average number of pigs caught per trapper week was 4.8. The average number of pigs caught per trapper week declined steadily from 2001 to 2004 and then stabilised from 2004 to 2006. The 2007 and 2008 figures have increased significantly from several prior years, however this trend may be attributed to improved trapping techniques and trap design rather than an increase in feral pig numbers (Appendix 5).

As in 2007, most pigs were trapped within the first few months of the year and were mainly trapped in the Lake Muir / Tone River and Frankland River (west) areas (Appendices 4 and 5). Most pigs were caught away from private property.

The weights of pigs trapped in 2008 ranged from 3 kg to 140 kg for boars with an average weight of 42.4 kg and from 5 kg to 103 kg for sows with an average weight of 43 kg (Appendix 6).

The trapping season ended mid June 2008 and there was no spring campaign for the year as pig activity was minimal. Illegal releases of pigs were noticed around Tone River in December 2008. A two week trapping campaign was undertaken to trap these pigs before they grew up and dispersed and resulted in 17 pigs (+ 95 unborn) being trapped and shot.* General feedback from the trappers is that pig numbers are low and those that remain are more difficult to find.

*It was noted during the December trapping program there was extensive damage along the Tone and Frankland Rivers. It appears the feral pigs are attracted to these sensitive areas with the germination of certain plants and vegetation during spring.



5. Projects which have assisted group objectives

1. Awareness raising workshops

Perup Trappers Seminar - 24th May 2007

This seminar was attended by trappers and Coordinators of feral pig groups from the South West area. A lot of new information was conveyed. DEC trappers from the Nannup area reported that a condition called 'Red Water' was prevalent in pigs being trapped in that area. This is a term to describe Leptospirosis, a bacterial disease which is not fatal to pigs but can be transferred to humans through contact between pig body fluids and human membranes. The disease in humans can be quite serious.

Perup Feral Pig Workshop - 21st February 2008

This workshop was attended by the group's trappers and group members and was one of the best held to date with some very interesting presentations. The agenda included: a review of activities for groups over the past year; discussion of the formation of a State Consultative Group for feral pig control; a practical display of traps and other tools; a presentation by Dr Jordan Hampton (Research Scientist) on pig specific baits that have been developed and advances in pig population genetic studies; and a presentation by Dr Peter Adams (Murdoch University) discussing his work tracking pigs in the Serpentine / Jarrahdale area.*

*One boar around Serpentine was tracked and covered an area of 12km². Mark Foster reported on other research which showed pigs in marshlands covered much smaller areas.

Invasive Species Community Awareness Workshops and Surveys - Porongorups - 18th March 2008 and Walpole - 19th March 2008

Green Skills planned two awareness raising workshops in March 2008 which were facilitated by Basil Schur (Green Skills Project Officer). Ted Knight and Mark Barley spoke on behalf of the group. Feedback forms filled out by attendees were positive and indicated that people are keen to receive information on the projects being undertaken. Links between local groups and organisations were strengthened. These workshops were funded by Lotterywest.

2. Invasive species sighting forms

Invasive species sighting forms developed by Green Skills were delivered to landholders in the Walpole, Denmark, Mount Barker, Kendenup and surrounding areas in 2007 and 2008. In 2007, 16 replies were received with additional verbal sightings forwarded to various project partners. An equal response was received in 2008. The group has a policy of sending a letter to people who report feral pig sightings to inform them of the details of the follow-up done.

3. Research

In 2006, Dr Laurie Twigg, Tim Lowe and Gary Martin (Department of Agriculture and Food - Vertebrate Pest Research Section) completed research trials into bait preferences and 1080 - efficacy of preferred baits by feral pigs. The group can now incorporate the key findings of the study into trapping and control strategies.

This information was reviewed and updated in January 2009 and the outcomes of this research can be found at: <http://www.agric.wa.gov.au/pls/portal30/docs/FOLDER/IKMP/PW/VP/FER/FPIGTEXT.PDF>

4. DEC Biodiversity Conservation Initiative

Under the ‘Saving Our Species’ project, DEC funded a Biodiversity Conservation Initiative for Feral Pig Control (BCIFPC) Coordinator in June 2006 to assist in the protection of sensitive environments as well as address impacts of feral pigs on all land on the south coast below the Blackwood River from Denmark to Augusta. The BCIFPC Coordinator provided funding and advice to landcare groups, non-government and government organisations and community based initiatives that assisted in feral pig control. The group would like to acknowledge the efforts of Mark Barley (June 2006 - July 2007) and Cherie Ehlers (July 2007 - June 2008) during their time as BCIFPC Coordinators.

The Lake Muir / Denbarker project was a significant factor in the formation of the position with a desire to replicate and expand on its successes. Groups that were assisted by the ‘Saving our Species’ project included:

Nannup Feral Pig Action Group * - This group was formed in 2007 after a public interest meeting. From this meeting an executive committee was formed and four pig trappers were subsequently appointed. The DEC “Saving Our Species” project provided start up funds.

Darkan / West Arthur Group * - Rare fauna and flora of land locked reserves within the area west of Collie are under threat due to feral pig activity. Local landcare officer John Bird is coordinating efforts of two local trappers who are being employed by the West Arthur Shire.

Northcliffe Group - The Southern Forest Landcare Group have contracted a trapper to work within important quokka habitats around the Northcliffe area and to liaise with local landholders. The DEC “Save Our Species” project is providing complementary funds.

*The group and DEC have continued to provide experienced trappers as mentors for trappers in these regions during 2007 and 2008.

5. Website

The group has a website that is linked to South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc (SCNRM). Lynn Heppell and Wilson Inlet Catchment Committee (WICC) assisted with the design and publication of the site. The site address is <http://feralpig.southcoastwa.org.au>

6. Publications

An 8 page community awareness brochure, ‘Community Action to Eradicate Feral Pigs’, documenting the history and objectives of the Lake Muir Denbarker CFPEG was published in 2006 with the design and compilation assistance of Green Skills project officer Melinda Lyons. The publication also includes steps to consider for those thinking of forming a similar committee in the region. This

brochure was modified and reprinted in 2008 and can be accessed via the internet at: (<http://feralpig.southcoastwa.org.au/reports/fpegip.pdf>).

7. Dongolocking project (Wagin area)

Trappers from the group have been working in the Dongolocking area since 2006 and continued to assist DAFWA Katanning with feral pig control in 2007 and 2008. In January, May and June 2007, the group's trappers provided assistance with trapping pigs in the Dongolocking Reserve area and nearby properties. During the January trapping period, trappers destroyed a total of 9 pigs. All the pigs trapped or shot were captured on private farm land.* An additional 6 pigs were trapped and destroyed in May and June 2007. Trappers also spent 3 weeks trapping within the Dongolocking Reserve in July 2008 for DAFWA.

*Trappers estimated approximately 100 pigs in the Dongolocking area operating in large groups. The pig 'way of life' in the Dongolocking Reserves differs significantly from the behaviour seen in the Lake Muir / Denbarker area. Major tracks were seen where pigs leave DEC reserves to seek water on private property. Dead sheep carcasses were a major source of food for the pigs and, therefore, prefeeding with grain (wheat bait) was unsuccessful.

8. Denmark

Trappers from the group visited Denmark on 26th March 2007 to gather information on pig activity from local farmers. A community meeting was held and 22 people attended (including the trappers and DEC Walpole) and a number of feral pig sightings were reported. DEC reported a shortage of water causing pigs to retreat deep into river valleys. There were not enough pigs reported to warrant an

intensive trapping program in the area. Trappers also visited Denmark in May 2008 and trapped 10 pigs.

9. Pallinup River/Boxwood Hills program

In July to September 2007, trapper, Kevin Machen, assessed the pig situation in Boxwood Hills (Shire of Jerramungup). Pigs in the area were domestic pigs which strayed from a farming operation and were getting into the river reserves. There was evidence of significant damage to the river as a result of the pigs although it was unclear how many pigs were roaming wild. Local landholders had previously shot 100 pigs and 7 pigs were trapped on this visit.

10. The Department of Water

The Department of Water manages 7500ha of freehold land in the Kent River Water Reserve and Denmark River Catchment Area. Ongoing support for the group is part of this management.



6. Assessment of the success in meeting the project objectives

As previously noted the project now has ten priority objectives.

The progress of the project in relation to these objectives follows below:

Objective 1. To minimise the effects feral pigs have on:

- The likelihood of spreading exotic diseases
- The quality of the natural environment
- The quality of water in catchment areas
- Private property adjoining forest areas.

No feral pig activity has been seen in the Denbarker area for many months. It appears that pigs have been eradicated from this area.

Trapping activity has been focused in late summer and early autumn when water is limited. Trappers have intentionally targeted feral pig populations in whole catchment areas to protect sensitive environments and prevent reinfestation of these areas.

Assessment - Further progress made.

Objective 2. To share the cost and effort for feral pig control.

Ongoing group involvement and financial and in-kind contributions from a wide cross section of the community, departments, organisations and landholders has contributed to the success of the project and allowed the group to extend their project area and outsource assistance to landholders and

CFPEG's from other areas. The community's assistance with identifying trapping sites on private property and reporting feral animal activity has also been invaluable to the group.

Assessment - Achieved

Objective 3. To enable an immediate response to complaints from landholders who have pigs emanating from neighbouring land.

Elected committee representatives and trappers are on standby to react to sightings of pigs. Maintaining an effective surveillance network with the community and providing a timely response is an ongoing challenge for the group. There have been increased efforts by the group to provide a reactive service following reports of sightings of pigs or damage by pigs. This has been well received by landholders. The availability of trappers can be a limitation to achieving this objective although the group's commitment to training and employing additional trappers has helped. If trappers are unavailable, the group's linkages with other local groups and relevant authorities enable them to refer community members to other organisations that can assist in providing a rapid response.

Assessment - Achieved

Objective 4. Reduce illegal pig hunting and release of pigs into forest areas.

Illegal hunting and release of pigs for sport is continuing to hinder eradication efforts. Illegal release is the major cause of feral pig movement across the state. DNA testing has

shown that feral pigs have been introduced to the lower south west from more than 150kms away. DNA testing and tracking devices to understand their potential migratory range has revealed that feral pigs will normally only travel about 20kms.

Methods of controlling such activity include:

- * Fines and charges in relation to illegal release of feral (or domestic) pigs into conservation areas.
- * Fines and charges in relation to illegal use of firearms and dogs on government and private lands.
- * On farm inspections for illegally kept feral pigs (a declared animal).

DEC, DAFWA and WA Police are working together with other authorities to enforce relevant acts and regulations.

An effective surveillance and trapping program has been the group's main approach to dealing with this issue as released pigs are soon caught. The group also has an active reporting process for sightings of suspicious vehicles and activities to help with the prosecution of offenders.

Assessment - Partly Achieved

Objective 5. Encourage a flexible trapping program that is not restricted to business hours or weekdays.

The group has identified that trapping work may need to occur on weekends and out of normal business hours. The trappers provide flexibility in regard to the days that they will work as do the committee

members with their voluntary contributions out of normal hours.

Assessment - Achieved

Objective 6. Improve the community image of government agencies, plantation owners and farmers as responsible managers of feral animals on their land.

There has been a lot of community effort to initiate and maintain the operations of the group by key members of departments, organisations and the general public. This effort has been acknowledged through awareness raising workshops about feral pigs, the development of the group website and also through the group's annual/biannual publications.

Assessment - Achieved

Objective 7. Augment current Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) trapping and poisoning programs.

DEC staff are active participants of the group. The group works in partnership with trapping and monitoring programs conducted by the DEC with ongoing efforts to minimise duplication and maximise the effective area of feral pig control. The area in which trappers can operate within DEC estates may be extended in the 2009 trapping season due to cooperative efforts between DEC and the group.

Assessment - Achieved

Objective 8. Collect relevant statistics on the distribution and number of feral pigs.

As the attached appendices highlight, the group is particularly careful to record all trapping statistics. These figures are not only useful for achieving the groups local objectives but contribute to a wider understanding of feral pig activity and control.

Assessment - Achieved

Objective 9. Monitor the effectiveness of hunting with dogs as a means of feral pig control.

The use of dogs to identify feral pigs in forest areas was assessed at the beginning of the project. At that time the group was of the view that dogs had some role to play but trapping without the use of dogs was preferred because the likelihood of catching whole family groups of pigs was greater when the level of disturbance in forest areas was minimised.

The group looked into issues of legality regarding hunting feral pigs using dogs. The main concern was that using dogs with the intention of bringing down, holding or attacking pigs may be legally unacceptable because of the potential for injury to the pig and/or the dog. However, the group is of the view that the use of trained dogs is acceptable when they are used to flush feral pigs out of forest areas if they are used as part of a legitimate control program. The group is aware that penalties for offences under the *Animal Welfare Act 2002* are significant.

A Draft Code of Practice on this issue was discovered and adopted by the group in July

2007. The group unanimously resolved that:

“The committee will operate under the principle from the Draft Code of Practice for Humane Vertebrate Pest Control, developed by the Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre, which states that it is ‘unacceptable to set a dog onto a pig with the intention of bringing it down, holding or attacking it’.

Trappers used dogs in certain areas for flushing pigs out of the bush with great results. From January to May 2008, 37 of the 104 pigs that were captured were sought and flushed out by dogs. In many instances there was no visual indication of the presence of pigs.

Assessment - Achieved

Objective 10. To advise and assist the establishment of similar working groups in other areas of the state.

External assistance has been given to the Darkan / West Arthur, Northcliffe, Nannup and Katanning regions in the form of: support for the establishment of community groups to combat feral pigs; advice on ways to obtain funding; provision of experienced trappers for local operations; and training of landholders and new trappers. The group is committed to offering support to others who wish to combat a feral pig problem.

Assessment - Achieved

7. Financial summary

The group has employed a collaborative approach to request funding from a diverse range of sources. In 2007 and 2008, the group was grateful to receive funding from local, state and federal government departments as well as community and industry groups. The group would like to thank its project partners for their ongoing support. Financial contributors are acknowledged in Appendix 2.

South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc (SCNRM) was a major contributor to the project in 2006, 2007 and 2008, pledging funding for operational activities of \$63,000 (exc GST) over a three year period.

In late 2006, the group was successful in an application for a Natural Heritage Trust funded Envirofund grant which provided \$20,641.70 specifically for the protection of the biodiversity at Lake Muir from feral pig disturbance. The funds from this project expired in May 2008 and were successfully acquitted in September 2008.

The group also welcomed the receipt of the Community Conservation Grant of \$5,000 from DEC in July 2008. This funding was for feral pig eradication in the Lake Muir area to protect the RAMSAR wetlands.

These funds enabled the group to run successful and consistent trapping campaigns during 2007 and 2008.

8. Developments during 2007 and 2008

Trapping program

Trappers trialed and developed their trapping and luring techniques during the 2007 and 2008 seasons. Trappers have been using satellite maps from the internet to help identify likely watering points in areas where pigs have been sighted. This approach focuses on knocking out pig populations in whole water catchment areas to protect sensitive environments and prevent reinfestation of these areas.

Trap design

In previous investigations by the group the 'Figure 6', 'Drop Gate' and 'Swing Gate' trap designs were identified as being styles worth utilising. Funds from the Envirofund Grant allowed the group to design, construct and trial several new traps in 2007 and 2008. Early in 2007, the 'Drop Gate' panel was used in conjunction with the old weld mesh design and successfully caught a large boar weighing 136kg. A number of other ideas for further trap designs followed. One of the new traps designed and trialed had a 'Cattle Spear' type gate and another was a portable trap which allows pigs to run freely through the trap until it is set. The portable trap is a rigid design which is intended to be used in situations where there are a small number of pigs.

Reports from the trappers indicate that they are pleased with the new designs.

The new traps have proved to be very effective, particularly in trapping the more difficult to catch pigs that remained in areas targeted in recent years.

Processes and protocols

The group has formally adopted operating guidelines for themselves and the trappers addressing issues such as: notification of trapping activity to local Police, DEC and private and corporate landholders; medical/fitness examinations for trappers prior to employment; and adopting a code of practice for using dogs.

These protocols aim to address occupational health and safety issues posed by trapping work and to ensure effective communication between parties to enable a rapid response to pig sightings.

Training program

In 2006, the group agreed to pursue the development of an accredited training program for feral pig trappers. This program is now operational and was developed in collaboration with TAFE, the Western Australian Health Department and DAFWA.

The Southern Feral Pig Advisory Group

The group was instrumental in organising a meeting between representatives of other Community Feral Pig Eradication Groups. Representatives from the Lake Muir / Denbarker, Nannup, Northcliffe, Darkan / West Arthur and Wandering CFPEG's were present as well as numerous

private and government stakeholders. As a result of this meeting, the *Southern Feral Pig Advisory Group* formed in September 2008. The boundaries for the Advisory Group cover the landcare areas of the South Coast, South West, Avon and Perth. The Advisory Group is chaired by Frank Camarri (Nannup). Funding has been secured for the employment of a Secretary. The main issues identified were: funding; availability of trappers; training program for trappers; Code of Practice for Feral Pig Control*; and laws to promote prosecution of illegal pig hunting activity.

* Barry Davies has taken on the development of the *Industry Code of Practice for Feral Pig Control (Trapping and Eradication)* through the Southern Feral Pig Advisory Group. Once this has been completed and adopted all groups will need to comply with the Code.

New legislation

The *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (BAM Act) has been developed by DAFWA and was enacted in 2007 but only a few provisions of the Act are yet in operation. The BAM Act seeks to prevent serious animal and plant pests and diseases from entering the State and becoming established and to minimise the spread and impact of any that are already present within the State. The group understands that this Act contains provision for significant increases in penalties regarding illegal pig releases and hunting activities and looks forward to its enactment. Further information relating to this act can be found at: http://www.agric.wa.gov.au/content/pw/bamb_info.htm.

9. Project plans for 2009

The group will investigate the approval and training requirements for the use of a new cereal based 1080 bait called PIGOUT.* The group has heard reports of the baits' success in the Northcliffe area. The group believes the bait may assist with following up ad hoc sighting reports of pig activity, particularly when trappers are unavailable.

*Developed through a partnership between the Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre (IACRC) and Animal Control Technologies Australia (ACTA).

DEC has invited the group to extend their trapping program into the Warren region within DEC's estate in the 2009 trapping season. This would allow trappers to work further south of their current boundaries. DEC identified 'pig target areas' based on the presence of rare flora and fauna and a likelihood of feral pig presence with the aim to protect highly vulnerable flora and fauna.

Assistance and mentoring for other landholders and CFPEG's will continue to be provided by the group to combat feral pig populations.

The group will stay informed of legislation, policies, research and other information relevant to their operations and continue to refine their processes and protocols relating to trapping and working with project partners and community members.

Opportunities to reduce the impact of illegal releases of feral pigs into forest areas will continue to be explored by the group.

10. Conclusion

The group is pleased with the progress that has been made in controlling feral pigs in the Lake Muir, Rocky Gully and Denbarker areas and welcomes the number of new groups forming in surrounding areas to address feral pig impacts. The group is always keen to assist other groups and community members to develop methods and strategies to deal with feral pigs. The group is aware that damage from feral pigs continues to occur in localised areas and that the eradication effort will need to continue over the long term through collaboration and partnerships between local landholders, industry groups, relevant government departments and other local groups.

The group would particularly like to thank the founding chairman of the group, Darrel Drage, for his major contribution to the formation and running of the group over the last 8 years. Darrel resigned from the group in 2008.



11. Further information

To report feral pig sightings (or other pest animals) or for advice on feral pig control contact your nearest office of the Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia (www.agric.wa.gov.au) or telephone Freecall 1800 084 881 (DAFWA Pest and Disease Information Service 8.30am-4.30pm Mon-Fri or email enquiry to info@agric.wa.gov.au). Also see contact information for members of the group.

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Appendix 1 - Parties involved in the project for 2007 and 2008

Committee Members

Mark Muir (Farmer, Unicap and current Chairman)
Mark Barley (DEC)
Tony Fox (Farmer, Lake Muir and current Deputy Chairman)
Murray Gangell (Department of Water)
Tony Higgs (DAFWA)
Ted Knight (DAFWA)
Bob Edwards (Great Southern Ltd)
Ian Wilson (DEC)
David Squire (Farmer, Tenterden)
John Rodgers (Farmer, Denbarker)
Jo Wills (Secretary)
Brad Barton (DEC)
Lynn Heppell (WICC NRM Coordinator)
Melinda Lyons (Green Skills)
Mark Foster (President, Sporting Shooters Association - Albany Branch)
Peter Bidwell (DEC)
Louis Gravestock (ITC Ltd)
Chris Stewart (DEC)
Jerry Roberts (Farmer, Frankland)

Committee Members who resigned during the period

Darrel Drage (Farmer, Denbarker and foundation Chairman)
Joeri Mak (ITC Ltd)
David Townsend (WA Plantation Resources Ltd)
Ashley Muir (Farmer, Lake Muir)

Contractors employed in 2007 and 2008

Peter Cochrane (Accredited)
Kevin Machen (Accredited)
Bob Radomiljac (Accredited)
Tom Devries (Trainee trapper)

Appendix 2 - List of contributors to the project in 2007 and 2008

Commonwealth Government

Natural Heritage Trust - Australian Government Envirofund

State Government

Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia

Department of Environment and Conservation

Department of Water

Local Government

Shire of Plantagenet

Shire of Cranbrook

Shire of Denmark

Shire of Manjimup

Timber Industry

Great Southern Ltd

Timbercorp

ITC Ltd

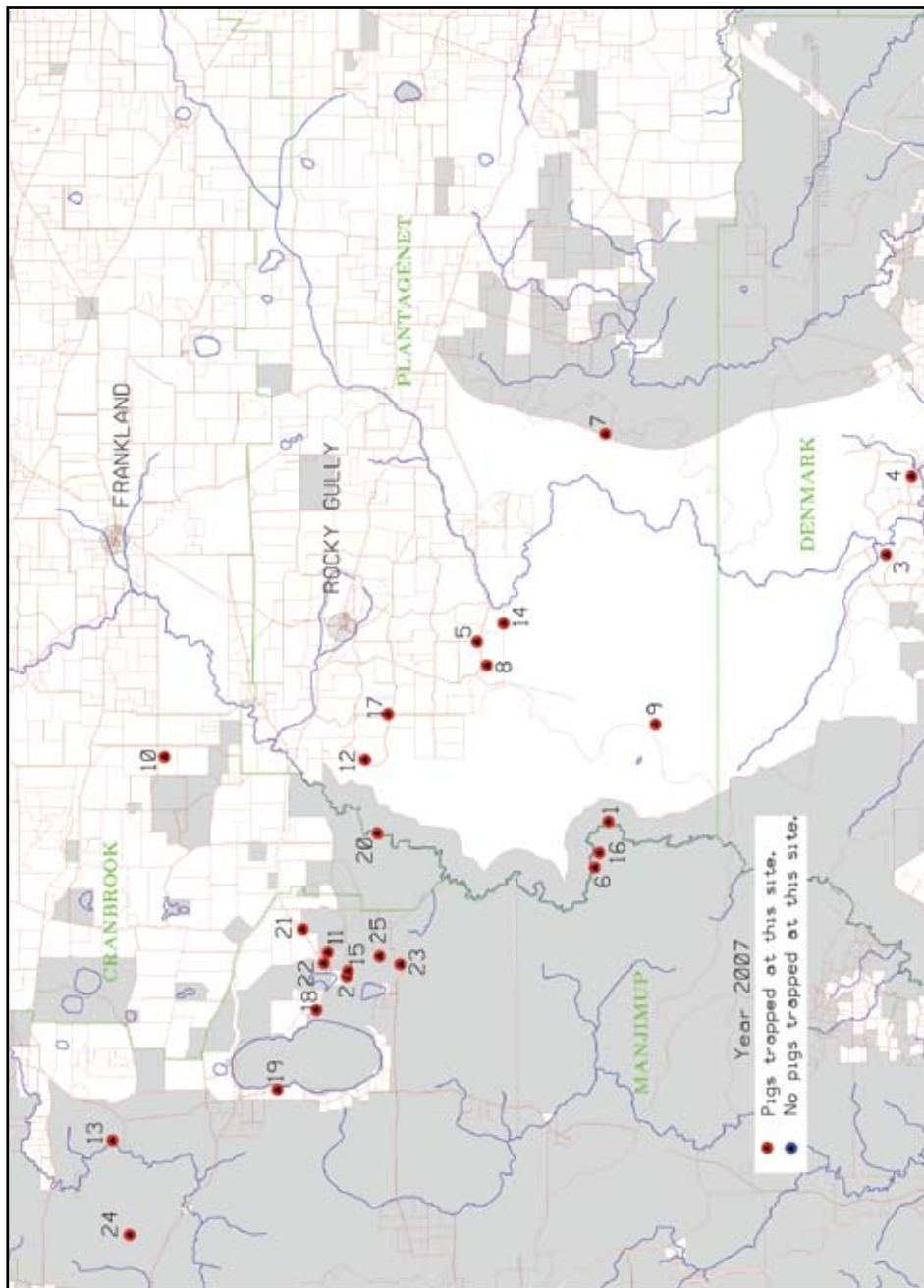
Community Group

Walpole Nornalup National Parks Association

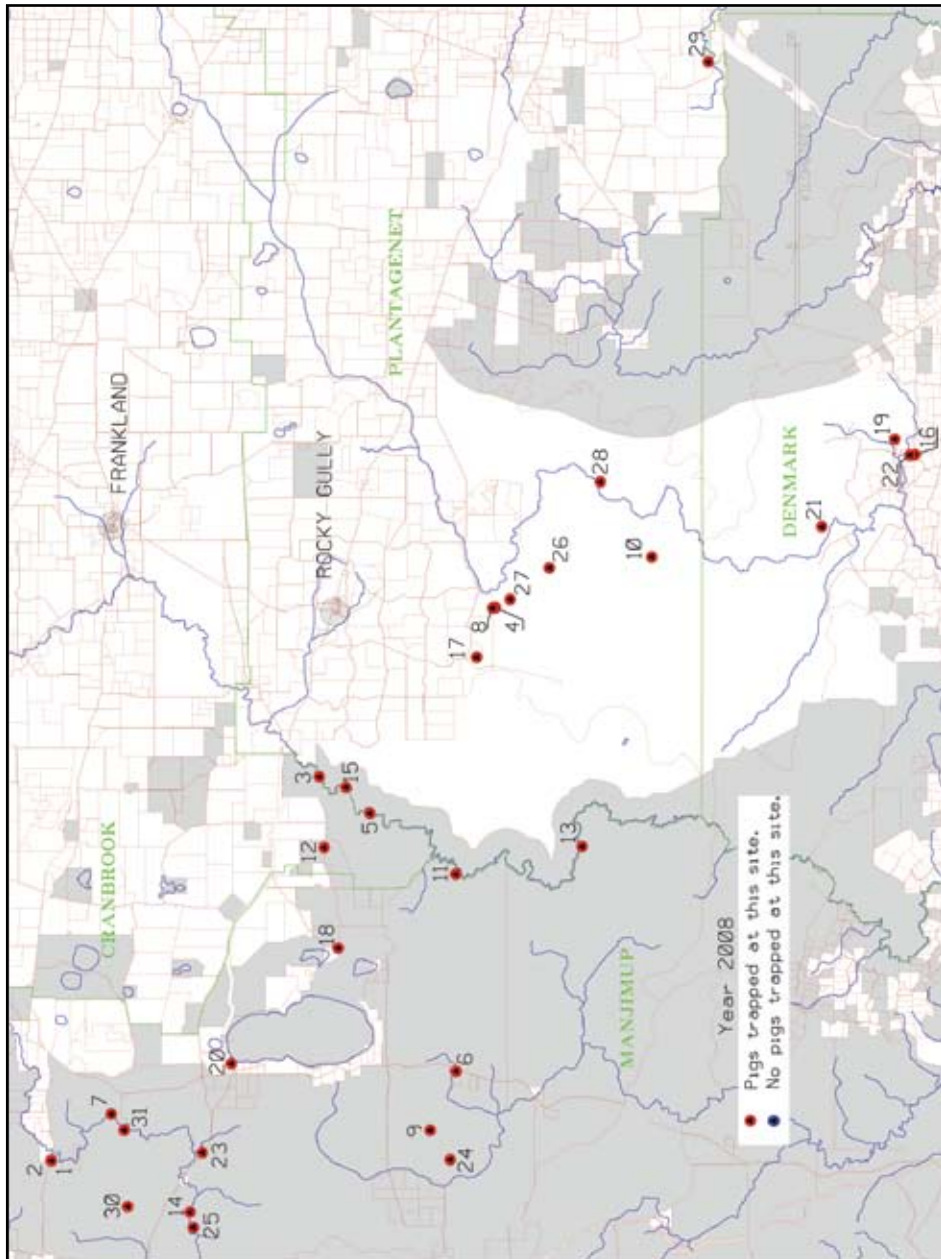
South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc. (South Coast NRM)

Private Landholders and Committee Members

Appendix 3 - Map of feral pig trap sites for 2007



Appendix 4 - Map of feral pig trap sites for 2008



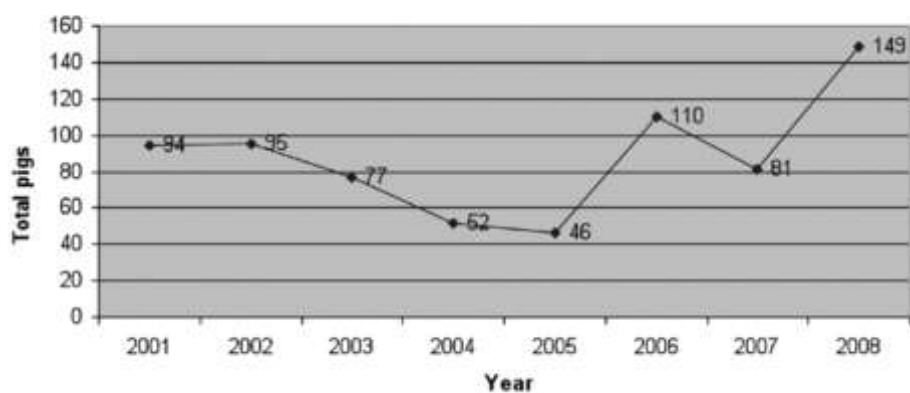
Appendix 5 -Trap statistics from 2001 to 2008

Pigs trapped by area, total number of pigs, total weeks of trapper time and pigs trapped per week.

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
a. Lake Muir	70	51	51	42	32	68	56	74
Rocky Gully	0	0	0	3	4	18	18	43
Denbarker	24	44	26	7	10	24	2	5
Denmark	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	17
b. Total pigs	94	95	77	52	46	110	81	149
c. Total weeks of trapper time	16	20	20	32	21	55	29	31
d. Pigs per trapper week	5.9	4.8	3.9	1.6	2.2	2.0	2.8	4.8

- The total number of feral pigs trapped by locality and year
- Total number of feral pigs for the year
- Amount of time trappers were employed for each year of the project
- Average number of pigs per week of trapper time

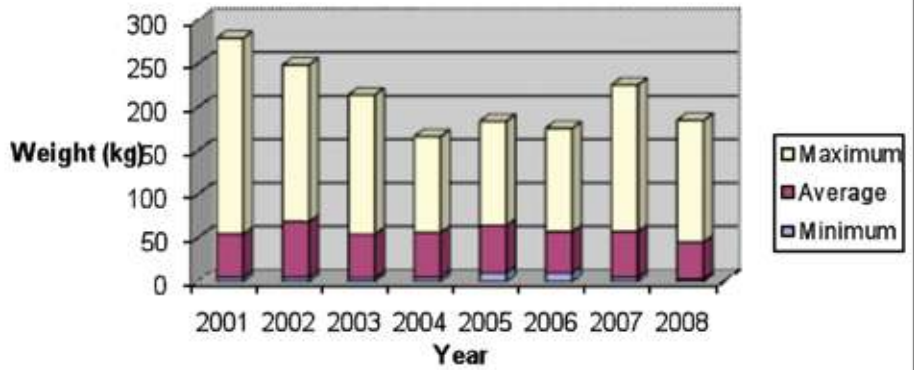
Total number of Feral Pigs trapped from 2001 to 2008



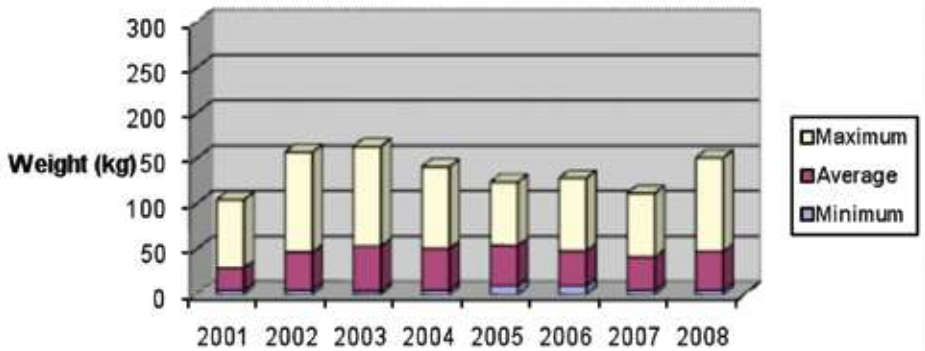
Appendix 6 -Weights of feral pigs trapped from 2001 to 2008

Male	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Minimum	5	5	4	5	10	10	5	3
Average	49.8	63.9	50.5	51.6	54.4	47.5	52.7	42.4
Maximum	225	180	160	110	120	118.5	168	140
Female	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Minimum	5	5	4	5	10	10	5	5
Average	24.6	42.1	49.5	46	44.2	38.4	36.7	43.0
Maximum	75	110	110	90	70	80	70	103

Feral Pig Weight Ranges - Males



Feral Pig Weight Ranges - Females



Project partners



Department of
Agriculture and Food



Department of
Environment and
Conservation



Department of
Water



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National Parks Association

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